

24846/P

EXPOSURE  
OF THE  
UNFOUNDED  
STATEMENTS AND INSINUATIONS  
OF A  
PARAGRAPH IN THE CALEDONIAN MERCURY,

IN WHICH THE DEATH OF

J—— D——, Esq. ADVOCATE,

IS ERRONEOUSLY AND UNTRULY ATTRIBUTED TO DISEASE IN HIS  
KNEE-JOINT, OR DELAY IN HAVING RECOURSE TO AMPUTATION.

IN A LETTER  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE OBSERVER,

WITH

A POSTSCRIPT

EXPOSING THE UNTRUE STATEMENTS OF THE  
CALEDONIAN MERCURY OF MAY 15.

BY

WILLIAM GLOVER, M.D.

LICENTIATE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS EDINBURGH; FORMERLY  
HOUSE SURGEON TO THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH, AND TO THE  
LOCK HOSPITAL, LONDON; AND LATTERLY PRIVATE PHYSICIAN  
TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD  
HEYTESBURY, WHILE ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY,  
AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY, AT  
THE COURT OF SPAIN.

SECOND EDITION, WITH NOTES.

EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED BY A. BALFOUR AND CO.  
MERCHANT COURT.

M.DCCC.XXVIII.

THE EDITOR of the OBSERVER Newspaper having refused to insert the following Letter, in answer to the Paragraph which he had copied into that print, it has been thought proper to print it in this separate form.



William Brown Esq.  
with Dr. Henry Cope.

*(To the EDITOR of the OBSERVER.)*

DEATH OF J—— D——, ESQ. ADVOCATE.\*

SIR,—From regard to the feelings of the friends of the amiable deceased, no less than from other motives of delicacy, I should gladly have avoided entering on this painful and unfortunate event, which has been injudiciously brought before the public, by an erroneous paragraph, which appeared in the CALEDONIAN MERCURY of the 10th instant.

This gentleman died on the fourth day after he had submitted to the operation of amputation. The day subsequent to his death, the paragraph in question appeared, from which, by unfounded statements and insinuations, the reader is led to believe that the cause of his death was the previous disease of his knee, or the operation having been too long delayed. Having discontinued my professional attendance on this gentleman, in consequence of disapproving of this operation, as not

\* See Note A.

required, I considered it due to myself to expose such unfounded statements and insinuations. At first it was my intention to publish the entire case, as the most complete refutation of such a paragraph ; but as I perceive it copied into other prints, and producing, pretty generally, an erroneous impression, I have determined, although reluctantly, no longer to allow it to remain, without communicating, through a similar channel, as much as may be necessary for the vindication of the correctness of my own professional opinion.

As you copied the original paragraph, and as in so doing *you* could have no wish to mislead your readers, I feel assured that you will do me the justice to insert the following.

Although for reasons perhaps more legal than medical, I am not named in the paragraph, yet to Mr. D——'s friends I am sufficiently designated by the appellation of " his medical attendant."

The first of the erroneous statements which I shall notice regards the date of this gentleman's complaint ; it being asserted that " it is little more than five months since the disease became permanently seated in the knee." It is much more. It is five months since my attendance on this patient commenced, and *at that time* he informed me that the swelling of this knee had existed for months, and that in consequence he had some time back

casually consulted Mr. Liston, who had advised bandaging. The patient called it rheumatism, and was not aware of its more serious nature. He however mentioned, that he had an affection of this joint fourteen or fifteen years ago, from which he recovered, after the formation of matter and an attack of hectic.

The next mistatement to which I shall refer regards the treatment and progress of the disease. It is asserted that blisters and every other means were tried for near five months “in vain.” If by “*in vain*” be meant that the knee was not cured, the assertion is what every one knows; but if by “*in vain*” be meant that no amendment or alleviation was at any time produced by those means, the statement is incorrect. Nor could it be said with truth that “it *daily* became worse.” On the contrary, even during the eight or ten days preceding the date of the first consultation, which advised amputation, a marked improvement had taken place. As to the assertion that “the swelling began to extend *upwards*,” so far from this, from the first day that I saw it, until that of the above consultation, I could not perceive that this swelling had extended *upwards* in the smallest degree.

Next comes the averment, that the “general health and strength of the patient were evidently declining.” As to his strength, it could not be so

great, after five months confinement as before, but his general health, so far from declining, was good, and to me his spirits appeared excellent. It is therefore absurd to talk of the disease of the knee being “the proximate cause of his death.”

But, in addition to these miststatements, the whole paragraph is so constructed, as to produce on the reader the impression, that there was only *one* medical attendant, until a consultation was held, “when Dr. Thomson, Dr. Sanders, and Mr. Liston attended,” and that they, “after the fullest and most anxious deliberation, unanimously came to the conclusion, that amputation was the only remaining resource which afforded the least chance of saving the patient,” but that, “exhausted and debilitated” by long suffering, he fell a victim to its being too long delayed. Every part of this is more or less erroneous. I could have no objection to take the whole responsibility of the *previous* treatment upon myself, but it so happened, that this patient was visited by other medical gentlemen, and from about the middle of February, Mr. Liston had attended with me.

It is only excusable in one unacquainted with medicine, to persist in decrying as a superficial remedy, blistering, a remedy approved and recommended by the first surgeons in certain states of this inflammatory affection of the joints; and a

remedy, the employment of which, in this particular case, was recommended by every medical man who was consulted. I advised it on the 26th October, my friend, Dr. Robert Hamilton, about the 8th November; Dr. Thomson having seen this patient in my absence, did the same, and without any communication with me; and, lastly, Mr. Liston, at our first meeting, about the 13th of February, also advised blistering.

As to the alleged consultation, at which Dr. Thomson, Dr. Sanders, and Mr. Liston attended, I have good grounds for believing, that no one consultation took place at which all these gentlemen attended. There were, however, two consultations at which I attended, at least, if a conjoint visit to the patient on the 5th April may be so called. These were, moreover, attended by a physician and a surgeon. The physician was different at each. The state of the knee was also different at each consultation. I dissented from the opinions of these three gentlemen, and stated my reasons against amputation at each consultation, at the last perhaps more shortly than at the preceding, owing to its having taken place in the patient's presence, which was occasioned by the physician having, at the commencement, given his opinion to the patient.\* The reasons which I gave against amputa-

\* See Note B.

tion were, that the patient's general health was good, that there was a fair chance that his limb might be cured, so as to be rendered serviceable, although perhaps with a stiff joint, but which was yet preferable to an artificial limb. I also mentioned other favourable circumstances, which, in my opinion, rendered amputation, in this case, still more uncalled for, viz. that three several times Mr. Liston and I had made an opening, and evacuated the fluid from the joint, without *the smallest injury to his health, or disturbance to his system*; that the last time, nothing but the usual fluid which lubricates the joints was discharged; and lastly, he had derived marked benefit from the application of moxa; and hence, there was increased reason to expect that, by a steady perseverance, the end in view might be attained. When, at this last consultation, if I may so call it, I perceived that, notwithstanding those reasons, the decision of the physician as well as of the surgeon was fixed, I had no hesitation in recommending to the patient a further consultation with additional medical gentlemen. The patient, however, at length determined to submit: we departed, and on coming home, I wrote Mr. Liston as follows:—

“ MY DEAR LISTON,—In the case of D——, I am so thoroughly convinced that an operation is not required, that I cannot think, upon mature

consideration, of sanctioning it in any way, and therefore must recur to my first determination, in declining meeting you to-morrow morning ; and leaving him, from this date, entirely in your hands ; but should feel obliged by your favouring me with a look at the joint after amputation. I sincerely regret that there should have been any difference of opinion between us on the present case, and am, my dear Sir, yours truly,

“ Wm. GLOVER.”

31, LONDON STREET,  
*25th April 1828,*  
*Four o'clock Afternoon.*

The difference of opinion alluded to was, of course, as to the propriety of amputation.

What I saw of the joint after amputation only tended to confirm me in my previous opinions.

And now as to the insinuation that the patient died from the operation having been too long delayed,—it was not so. On the contrary, I never knew a patient in such good health, on whom amputation was performed for diseased knee joint.

I think it my duty to state, that although this patient died after an operation performed by Mr. Liston, yet I believe that assertion of the paragraph, that “ this was very far from being *any fault of his;*” and perhaps I may be permitted to add, although I was not present at this opera-

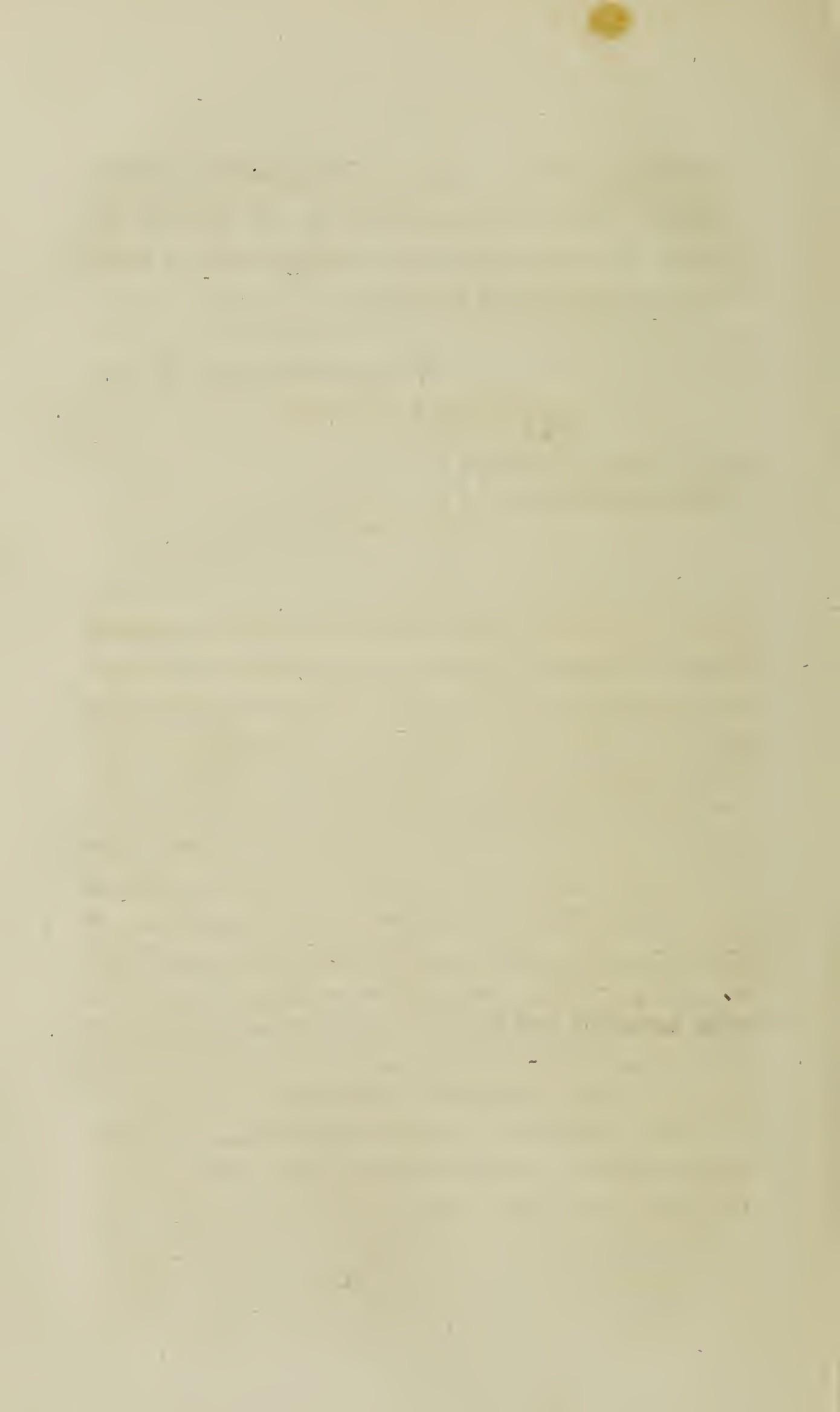
tion, that I know him to be an expert operator; but the issues of life and death are not in his hands. There is always more or less danger connected with every considerable operation, how quickly and skilfully soever it be performed; and, among medical men, it is, I believe, pretty generally admitted, that recoveries from amputations are more common when performed on those whose health has just begun to decline, from any local affection as of a joint, which is removed by such operation, than when amputation is performed on those whose general health is good.

As names with some have their weight, I shall conclude by quoting the opinion of Sir Astley Cooper upon this subject, but not without again expressing my heartfelt regret, that these observations should have been publicly forced from me. Speaking of those affections, “The next circumstance,” (says Sir Astley in his lectures) “to be considered is, when does amputation become necessary? Formerly limbs used to be amputated much more frequently than at the present day. The reason *we* seldom amputate is, that the affected limb may with care and management be often made more useful than an artificial one. In enlargements of the knee and ankle, it may be necessary, *now and then* to amputate, but it ought never to be done unless the patient is

“ labouring under *great constitutional irritation*  
“ which *threatens destruction to his life*, or the  
“ limb *has undergone such changes that it is not*  
“ *likely to be useful hereafter.*” .

WILLIAM GLOVER, M. D.

31, LONDON STREET, }  
25th April 1828. }



## POSTSCRIPT.

---

THAT *the Editor* of the Caledonian Mercury should write an abusive article gives me no surprise, nor yet that *he* should attribute to me absurd and unworthy motives. Such may be the motives that actuate him; to me they are alike foreign and detestable. But certainly I was not prepared to expect that this Editor should be so vain as to flatter himself, that any medical man would take the trouble to write a letter, contradicting his stories, for the purpose of obtaining notoriety from such an association. This is vanity, which, on another occasion, would be most amusing, and I should be sorry to disturb even this Editor in so strange, but to him apparently so pleasing a dream concerning his own importance,

I must, however, remind Mr. D——'s friends that it was this same individual, who now boasts of his mischievous friendship, and not I, that "violated," as he calls it, "the sacred reverence due to the grave;" that, in short, it was he, not I, who, for reasons best known to himself, dragged this

subject before the public ; and if I have been obliged, most unwillingly, to notice him and his lucubrations, it was because they contained statements inconsistent with truth, and because the public are apt to suppose that averments made in a public print, by what individual soever, if left uncontradicted, must necessarily be true. Were it not on this account I should take as little notice of his untrue statements as I shall of his abuse.

That I had good grounds for complaining of the paragraph in question appeared to my medical friends, as well as to myself, and will appear to those who take the trouble to peruse my exposure of its unfounded statements and insinuations : and that Dr. Thomson, a gentleman not quite so young as myself, also complained of this *innocent* and *friendly* paragraph, appears from this Editor's own hand-writing. In his note refusing to publish my communication, he adds, “ Mr. Brown feels the “ less regret in announcing this his determination to “ Dr. Glover that, upon much narrower grounds, he “ refused to publish a statement by Dr. Thomson, “ which, in one place, conveyed by implication only “ what Dr. Glover has openly and explicitly assert- “ ed.” \*

As the history of my communication, in contradiction to the paragraph, may serve to illustrate this Editor's accuracy, I shall notice his assertions respecting it. Speaking of my letter, he says, “ in its *original state*,”—It “ was first offered to ourselves.”

\* See Note C.

It was not. It was first offered to the Courant, and my reason for so doing was, that any individual who could write so jesuitical a paragraph, upon such unfounded grounds, was not likely to insert its due contradiction. The Editor of the Courant, however, declined receiving it, in as much as considering the article of the Mercury objectionable for a public print, he had not copied it, and therefore did not conceive himself called upon to insert my reply.

He assured me, however, that Mr. Brown had most probably been misled, and would in all likelihood at once insert it. Others gave me similar representations of his candid disposition. I was swayed by their opinions, and after altering the introductory sentences of my communication I sent it to him. He returned me a message by my young friend, Mr. Thompson,\* that he would insert it, if I would agree to the omission of one short sentence, to which he objected.† Having declared that he meant to insinuate nothing, I called upon him for the purpose of altering that sentence, when he at length promised that, if I would allow him to show the paper to the Dean of Faculty, whom he was going to consult that afternoon at half-past five, he would, notwithstanding the opinion of his friends, insert that sentence also, if the Dean did not declare it libellous, as he valued his opinion more than "that of the whole Faculty put together." After, however, retaining my communication from about noon till ten at night, he returned it with an absolute refusal, although the Dean had never been consulted; he, in short, "having

\* See Note D.

† See Note E.

been called away *unexpectedly* to London," yet a friend informed me, that that learned gentleman had *delayed* his setting off from the Tuesday preceding. At our interview, this Editor was as complimentary as in his last article he is abusive, declared that he neither meant nor could mean any insinuations; and that upon his publishing my letter, he should feel called upon to put himself right with the public in the most explicit terms; but neither I nor my friend Mr. Thompson ever heard him talk of declaring anything "to be false."

Although this is with me a matter of little moment, I think it right, once for all, to say, that such is the exact impression, not only on my mind, but also on Mr. Thompson, who was present the whole of the interview, and can attest the accuracy of this account of it.

As to the information of this Editor that my "letter was successively offered for publication to "every other journalist in Edinburgh, and declined "by all;" this is as incorrect as the rest of his information. Previous to my offering it to the Mercury, it was only offered to the Courant, and subsequently only to the Scotsman and Observer. The former assigned as reasons for not inserting it, its length, its subject, and also that he had not copied the entire paragraph. The Editor of the Observer refused it, stating that he considered my claim for insertion was on the Editor of the Mercury. The Observer was, I believe, the only paper in Edinburgh that copied the *entire* paragraph; and, therefore, I considered its Editor the only one ex-

cept that of the Mercury on whom I had an *undoubted* claim for the insertion of my contradiction.

The letter which I have published, is the one I offered to the Observer and Scotsman, and the statements are substantially the same as those I offered to the Courant and Mercury. Some statements are no doubt omitted, not because they were incorrect, but because a member of *another* learned profession advised me so to do.

Upon the Observer refusing it, I gave it\* to a Printer, who, at my request, had it advertised only in the Caledonian Mercury. This I thought was required as a contradiction, through the same channel in which the unfounded statements had been first conveyed ; and, except to my professional acquaintance, I have not distributed above a dozen copies, besides which they have been sent by the Printer to the Booksellers, to the office of Mr. Brown and his brother Editors.† Such is what this individual designates as “circulating, advertising, distributing and pushing before the public” my letter “*in every possible way.*” But he seems fated to be inaccurate even in trifles. Of his own paragraph, he cannot even give a correct account. In his yesterday’s Mercury, he says, “The unfortunate paragraph which has called this belligerent doctor into the field is as follows.” Here he copies the first part of it, but stopping where every one can most easily judge of his inaccuracy, he has the hardihood to assert “*it was further stated that in*

\* See Note F.

† See Note G.

these circumstances *consultations were held*," whereas in his original paragraph, it was stated not that *consultations were* held, but that " in these circumstances *a consultation* was held, at which Dr. Thomson, Dr. Sanders, and Mr. Liston attended ;" and that they, after the fullest and most anxious deliberation, " unanimously came to the conclusion that amputation was the only remaining resource which afforded the least chance of saving the patient." So that even as to the simple fact of the number of consultations, this Editor not only differs from the truth at least in one of his papers, but even from himself, giving in his yesterday's Mercury an untrue account of what he himself had stated in his paper of April the 10th. As I am on the subject of this alleged consultation, at " which Dr. Thomson Dr. Sanders and Mr. Liston attended," I may here repeat that not only no one consultation took place at which all these Gentlemen attended ; but even as to the opinion " that amputation was the only remaining resource *which afforded the least chance of saving the patient*," which this Editor gives as the unanimous decision of this consultation, I may state that I never heard it given, even as the opinion of one professional gentleman, until I saw it in the columns of the Mercury.

To show the licence which this Editor takes, I may here notice that, in his original paragraph, he asserts, "*At first it was thought by his Medical attendant*, that the swelling, though from the commencement alarming, might be subdued by vigo-

rous treatment, and that notwithstanding the unfavourable symptoms, and a habit of body not altogether adapted to bear up under lengthened confinement, there were still reasonable grounds for believing that the disease might be ultimately overcome, and the use of the limb to a certain extent at least restored." This is the pure creation of this Editor's fancy.

The repetition of his unfounded statements, and his quibbling criticisms, on my denial of them, require no answer but what is contained in my previous exposure of them ; and I shall only add, that when I talk of relief, I allude to no ten minutes relief, as he sillily supposes, but to that of days and weeks. I must also add, that it is vain and absurd to give, as an answer to my averments, that Mr. D——'s general health was good, that other medical men say it was bad. When I affirm that his general health was good, the plain meaning is, that, except the local symptoms exhibited by the diseased limb, he had no other symptoms of bad health. If any medical man asserts that his general health was bad, let him point out *what symptoms* he had of general bad health, *let him name those symptoms, and let him put his own name to the assertion.* I aver there were no such symptoms, but that his general health was good. And I shall not notice any further assertions of this individual to the contrary, nor shall I enter into any discussion with one who, not to speak of his inac-

curacies, can only talk with propriety on such subjects by the assistance of a third party.

Asto the statements which this Editor has brought forward, for the first time, in yesterday's Mercury, they also are untrue.

It is not true that this "gentleman had been laid on his back for five long and dreary months." Rest is an absolute requisite in the treatment of all inflammatory affections of the joints. Hence I advised the limb to be kept in the horizontal posture ; that, in fact, he should sit or lie constantly on the sofa. Had it not been for this he would have continued walking as he had done before, to the injury of his knee, for except when it was sore from a blister, he was more capable of walking at the end of the first month of my attendance than at its commencement, the swelling having diminished. It was with some difficulty I got him persuaded to remain away from the Parliament House, and once during the five months that this Editor has laid him on his back, he did go there in a coach. Moreover, he continued capable of walking for nearly the three first months of my attendance, until, on removing from one house to another, instead of going in a coach, as I had advised, having got into a sedan-chair, in which, from its being too small, as he said, he could neither sit nor stand, an increased attack of inflammation was the consequence, which was afterwards aggravated by too great freedom in quitting the horizontal position. This was about the end of Ja-

nuary, and until that time, or the beginning of February, he was not confined to bed, and then it was only in consequence of my advice, in order to give the limb more complete rest ; in which advice Mr. Liston afterwards concurred, at his first visit about the 13th of February.

Nor is it true that, “ during the greater part of ‘ that period,’ (viz. five months) he ‘ had endured ‘ the most acute and excruciating pain.’ ” On the contrary, until about the period of the above removal he had little pain except from the blisters ; and the only pain which could be called *excruciating* was that of spasms, which for two or three weeks attacked him during the night, but which, at the date of the first consultation which advised amputation, *had been removed by the evacuation of the fluid and application of moxa.* As to what are called incisions, they were mere punctures to evacuate the fluid.

The assertion that this patient was *latterly so reduced* that for three weeks, consecutively, his bed could not be adjusted, is untrue. For a considerable time he did not get out of bed, but that *was not from his being reduced*, but on account of the pain which moving the limb occasioned ; but, *by the means stated above*, the pain of his knee was so materially relieved, that for two days preceding the first consultation *he did not complain of it, even on pressure ; and on that day I observed he allowed it to be handled without complaining.* Previous to this he had also been able to get his bed made.

In fact, his confinement to the sofa and bed was entirely owing to the local inflammation, and had no connection with weakness. He was not weak, and his general health had remained good and unimpaired. As to the quotation from Mr. Travers, it is not applicable, as this patient was not "*depressed and enervated by continued suffering.*"

Next comes a question by this accurate Editor, "Was it professional," says he, "nay, was it humane "in a person circumstanced as he" (Dr. "Glover) "was, (in a minority of one,) to go to the bed-side "of his patient *after* the operation had been deter- "mined on,—*after* the patient had made up his "mind to undergo it, and only nine hours before "the time fixed for performing it, and *there* inti- "mate his dissent and disapprobation."

I should certainly not regard this as consistent with professional courtesy; whether it would have been humane I shall not now say, but if it is meant to assert that I acted thus, I at once aver it is false. I did nothing of the sort: On the contrary, although I was especially requested by the patient to call in the evening, when I did so, instead of going into his bed-room as formerly, I asked for his worthy friend, and not finding him at home, for his lady, and it was only in consequence of a message from the patient that I saw him.\* When he said, "You'll be here to-morrow morning," I replied, generally, "You won't require me, Mr. Liston is an excellent operator; you may place the greatest confidence in

\* See Note H.

him." I scrupulously avoided entering on the subject, and did not even mention to the patient the reason of my intended absence, nor did I then positively say I would be absent: Of these I only informed his friend in a sealed note, which I delivered privately to the lady of that friend.

As to what I saw and said of the diseased joint, this Editor is no less inaccurate. He broadly asserts I "*saw* that 10 or 12 ounces of *purulent matter* were evacuated from it." Now, it so happens, that I can distinguish serum from purulent matter, and his 10 or 12 ounces of alleged purulent matter, were scarcely so many ounces of serum, with flakes of what appeared to be coagulable lymph; and which I have no doubt were collected *in consequence* of an accidental attack of inflammation which he had after the first consultation, as the last time (March 22,) we had evacuated the fluid from his joint, it consisted of nothing but synovia. I might say to any thing before me, "I see it;" but if Mr. Liston, or any one present in his surgery, when I saw the joint examined, expressed any opinion as to the propriety of amputation, it was not observed by me, and in that place I expressed *no opinion* upon the subject. This I perfectly recollect, that, in coming up the stairs, he did express such an opinion, to which I replied to the effect that it *might have* become a *stiff joint*, from which he dissented. I think he may recollect this. But, be this as it may, it is *untrue* that I ever said, I am convinced that nothing would have been of any use

but amputation, nor did I *ever* express any opinion at variance with what I have said in my Letter, that “what I saw of the joint after amputation only tended to confirm me in my previous opinions.”\* Nothing had taken place inconsistent with the formation of a stiff joint, as should have been known to every medical man, at least since the days of Hunter. On the contrary, ulceration of the cartilage, and exposure of the bone, which, in some places had begun to take place, are the antecedents of a process by which nature sometimes forms a stiff joint.

As to the report that Mr. Liston was privy to the writing of the original paragraph, it was no report of mine. On the contrary, I have a better opinion of Mr. Liston than to suppose that he would have authorised any similar paragraph, far less one containing statements which he must have known to be untrue.

In conclusion, I have only to add, that although I have once more noticed the lucubrations and untrue statements of this individual, who writes anonymously, he need not flatter himself that I will again do so. Having in my Letter and this Postscript exposed their true nature and value, *I shall, in future, disregard his statements as much as I have disregarded his abuse, and shall feel myself entitled to treat similar ones from him as utterly unworthy either of notice or credit.*

WILLIAM GLOVER, M. D.

31, London Street, 16th May, 1828.

\* See Note I.

*Note.—*In consequence of Mr. Brown, the Editor of the Mercury, having given a very erroneous account of the only interview I ever had with him, I have thought proper to subjoin the following corroboration of the accuracy of *my account* of it. (See pages 15 and 16.)

---

Having been present at Dr. Glover's interview with Mr. Brown, concerning the insertion of his Letter into the Caledonian Mercury, I can corroborate the correctness of the account which Dr. Glover has given of that interview, as well as of the previous message referred to in the preceding Postscript.

THEOPHILUS THOMPSON.

31, London Street,  
16th May, 1828.

---

## NOTES.

---

Note A. page 3.—As my letter was written in consequence of a paragraph in which Mr. D——'s name was used in full, I naturally did the same, *in my contradiction*, which I regret, but it so happened that the possibility of the initials answering the purposes of identity never occurred to my mind, nor, from the same cause, I presume, was it ever suggested by any one to whom I showed my letter.

Note B.. page 8.—This took place in presence of the patient, and upon the physician giving his opinion, and before I had fully stated mine, or the patient announced his determination, the surgeon requested the physician to speak with him in an adjoining room upon another case which they were attending. While absent I urged upon the patient a further consultation, and although convinced that amputation was uncalled for, yet considering it improper to talk *to him* of danger from the operation, I “reminded him that his limb once off, could not be replaced.” This was the time I made this observation, *and not in the evening, as has been untruly stated.* Upon their return, I again in their presence urged a further consultation, as I saw *no reason* for amputating the limb, the more especially after the marked improvement produced by the evacuation of the fluid, and the application of moxa, although it had only been once used about 10 days preceding. And it was not until the physician had again very decidedly given his opinion, that the patient determined to submit. I may add, that in my original letter, sent to the Editor of the Mercury for insertion, in giving *an account of this last consultation*, I expressly mentioned that I had made the observation, that his limb once off could not be replaced. In fact, the words placed within inverted commas, are the identical words used in that copy of my letter.

Note C. page 14.—This is copied word for word from Mr. Brown's note, and is all he says upon the subject of Dr. Thomson's communication for the Mercury.

Note D. page 15.—At present one of the Clinical Clerks in the Royal Infirmary.

Note E. page 15.—Mr. Thompson, who is much too acute for Mr. Brown, informed me, upon his return, that he was quite certain as to the message, as *he had made Mr. Brown repeat it, so as to prevent any mistake.*

Note F. page 17.—It was the *identical copy* of my letter refused by the Observer, that I sent to the press to be printed, under the title of Exposure.

Note G. page 17.—This applies to my letter at the date of my Postscript (16th May) and was subsequent to his assertion.

Note H. page 22.—It has been asserted that, instead of this, I sent a message requesting “to see the patient alone,” and the generous friends who watched over Mr. D—, are appealed to for the accuracy of this

statement. I therefore inquired of those friends, and found it to be untrue, that they can confirm the accuracy of such a statement. The gentleman was from home, and can say nothing on the subject; and the lady mentions that, from the feelings then occupying her mind, she has no distinct recollection of any thing that occurred further than my putting a note into her hands. Moreover, I may state, that as it was not Mr. D—, but his friend I wished to see, I did not call till about nine o'clock, as I knew he was to dine abroad. I then asked for that friend and afterwards for this lady. Both being from home, I went away *without seeing the patient*, and called again betwixt ten and eleven. Had it been the patient I called to see, I might have done so the first time, and would have had no occasion again to call. But as it was his friend I wished to see, *I had to call a second time*, when I inquired as before, first for that friend, and on finding him from home, for his lady, when the servant returned with a message to the purport that the patient wished me to step up to his bedroom. On entering it there passed me coming out apparently two gentlemen, when I said I beg you wont disturb yourselves. One of them gave me some little reply, and both passed on. The patient asked me if his pulse was not much quicker than in the morning, as he had been talking a good deal, by way of amusing two gentlemen who had been with him during the evening. I replied his pulse was very good. He asked how soon one was able to go about after amputation, to which I gave a similar satisfactory answer to what Mr. Liston had previously given. He added Mr. Liston had called and told him that he would bring Dr. Sanders and Mr. M'Kenzie in the morning, on which I made no obervation. This, with what I have mentioned in my postscript, was, I believe, all that passed. My disapproving of the operation, as well as any idea of the propriety or impropriety of amputation, was never alluded to in the most distant way. His friend still being from home at this second call, I gave privately to his Lady the sealed note which I had written for that friend, and which was similar to the one I sent Mr. Liston. See also note B.

Note I. page 24.—With Mr. M'Kenzie I never had any conversation on this subject. Any little observation I might make was addressed to Mr. Liston; and if to any thing before me I said, "I see it," it had no connection with any thing Mr. M'Kenzie was talking about. "I see it," is very different from "I am convinced of it," which this Editor has put down as synonymous, assuming that I said "I see it," or "I am convinced of it." Mr. Liston could not so misund~~er~~stand me, as to him I expressed an opinion very different from being convinced of the propriety of amputation, as mentioned in my postscript, (p. 23.)

William Brown Esq<sup>r</sup>  
25 Dublin Street

Po<sub>k</sub>  
(Aug)